



The damaged embankment of a fish enclosure at Sangdia village in Bagerhat's Kachua upazila. Inset, a vegetable field, ravaged by Cyclone Bulbul, at Tengrakhali village in the upazila. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

AFTERMATH OF CYCLONE BULBUL

Fish enclosures, winter vegetables on vast areas damaged in Bagerhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The recent heavy rains and flash flood triggered by cyclone Bulbul have massively damaged vegetables and fish enclosures in Bagerhat, pushing farmers of the coastal district into despondency.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Bagerhat, about 22,900 vegetable growers have incurred a loss of Tk 3.77 crore since the cyclone brought incessant rain and wind gusts across the region earlier this month.

Moreover, a total 7,501 fish enclosures were damaged causing a loss of Tk 3.55 crore to the owners.

As a result, it would be difficult to achieve the production target of 32,000 tonnes shrimp in the current financial year, Bagerhat DAE Deputy Director Raghunath Kar said.

Shrimp farmers said natural disasters hit them every year.

"Trees fell on the embankments of the enclosures during the heavy rains. As a result, fishes could find their ways into the river," said Mizan Sheikh of Sangdia village of Kachua upazila.

"I had spent Tk 5 lakh on seven bighas of land, where I set up the enclosure. I cultivated shrimp, prawn and carp fish. But due to incessant rain, all the fish went out in the river," he told this paper.

District Fisheries Officer (DFO) Khaled Kanak said that the owners of fish enclosures in Bagerhat played a vital role in export of shrimp.

On the other hand, vegetables on 1,300 hectares of land were damaged in the district, according to the DFO. He, however, could not ascertain the number of affected farmers.

"Most of the farmers had cultivated early varieties of winter vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, tomato and other varieties with a hope to earn a good profit but flash flood swept away vast tracts of their land," he told this paper.

The winter vegetables were damaged mostly in Chitalmari, Kochua, Bagerhat Sadar and Mollarhat upazilas, added the official.

"The storm hit right when the vegetables were ready for sale. I had cultivated cauliflower, cabbage and tomato on four bighas land," said Gopaldas, a farmer of Sangdia village in Kochua upazila.

Fakir Mahidul Islam Sumon, president of Bagerhat Shrimp Farmers Association, said, "Every year, shrimp farmers suffer due to natural disasters. In order to save this business in the region, the government must provide some aid to the victims."

He sought assistance from the government to mitigate the losses.

Badhal Union Council Chairman Nakib Foysal Ohid said, "Cyclone Bulbul has caused irreparable damage to the farmers. Without assistance, the farmers cannot overcome the loss."

On that, DAE officer Raghunath said, "Fertilisers and seeds will be provided so that farmers can recover from their loss."

Nahiduzzaman Khan, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), told this paper that 18.53 kilometre of embankments have been damaged in Sharankhola and Morrelganj upazilas.

When asked, what steps were being taken to help the farmers who get hit by natural calamities every year, Nahiduzzaman said, "Efforts are on to build durable enclosures."

25 injured in Kushtia AL infighting

3 cops among 20 hurt during AL council in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 25 leaders and activists were injured in a clash between two factions of ruling Awami League (AL) in Khoksa upazila of the district yesterday.

Police said the clash took place between two groups of local AL -- one led by Kushtia District unit AL President Sadar Uddin Khan and the other by AL lawmaker (Kushtia-4 constituency) Selim Altaf George -- centring a trifling matter during council of Khoksa upazila unit AL about 12:30pm.

The clash ensued when both the groups started chanting slogans after a group loyal to George, wearing yellow t-shirts, allegedly tried to capture the seats, ousting men loyal to Sadar Uddin.

At one stage, the two factions, equipped with bamboos and sticks, attacked each other that left at least 25 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, Joynal Mollah, 55, president of Khoksa upazila unit Sramik League, Shahidul Islam, Robin Uddin Khan, 28, Akash Ali, 18, Ujjal Hossain, 48, Sagar, 26, Nayan, 34, Liton, 30, Jihad Hossain, 28, Dulal Uddin, 37, Motin Sheikh, 34, and Hazrat Mia, 32, were admitted to Khoksa Upazila Health Complex.

Away in Lalmonirhat, at least 20 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between two factions of AL over holding council of Sreerampur union unit AL in Patgram upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Police fired a number of teargas-shells and rubber bullets to bring the situation under control, Officer in Charge (OC) of Patgram Police Station Sumon Kumar Mahanta said, adding that the injured were admitted to Patgram Upazila Health Complex, Rangpur Medical College Hospital and different private clinics.

Police said the incident occurred when supporters of two president candidates -- Sree Rampur Union Parishad Chairman Abul Hashem and Rafiqul Islam -- chased each other with wooden sticks, iron rods and sharp weapons, leaving 20 people, including three policemen injured.

3 JMB men to die, 4 others get life term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A court here yesterday sentenced three members of banned militant outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to death and four other JMB men to life term imprisonment in a murder case.

The death penalty awardees are Sanwar Hossain, 30, son of Chanpara village in Nachole upazila, Jahangir Alam, 32, son of Abdul Kuddus of Balugram-Rajarampur village, and Abdus Shukur, 32, son of Mofijuddin of Balugram-Dakhitola village in Gomostapur upazila while the lifers are Shamsul Haque, 26, son of Nurul Islam of Gopalnagar Abdul Motakabbir alias Bulbul, 26, son of Nazrul Islam, Saiful Islam, 32, son of Nazrul Islam of Chapustam village, and Shamim, 28, son of Mahtab of Nimtala village in Gomostapur upazila. Of them, Sanwar was tired in absentia.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shawkat Ali also fined the lifers Tk one lakh each, in default, they are to suffer another one year in jail.

According to the prosecution, a group of JMB men stabbed another JMB member Ruhul Amin Salman, 28, a resident of Dhanmondi in the capital, dead over intra-party feud in Nachole upazila on April 26 in 2012. Police recovered the beheaded dead body from a mango orchard in Kholsi-Boria area of Nachole upazila the following day.

Salman came to visit the house of his father-in-law at Chanpara in Nachole upazila.

Later, Sub-Inspector Anisur Rahman of Nachole Police Station filed a murder case against unidentified people.

4 arrested over rape of 4th grader

She filed case against neighbour after her baby girl died two days after birth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Three days after a 13-year-old girl along with her dead newborn arrived at a police station and filed a rape case, police arrested the prime accused and three others from Jamalpur town yesterday.

At midnight on November 19, the fourth grader, daughter of a construction worker from Dalbari village in Dewanganj municipality in Jamalpur, gave birth to a baby girl that died on the night of November 21 (Thursday).

She went to Dewanganj Police Station carrying the dead baby the next day and filed the case against the four arrestees, alleging that her neighbour Raihan, 19, had raped her around nine months ago.

The other arrestees are Raihan's father Habibur Rahman, mother Rina Begum and his paternal uncle Salahuddin.

According to the case statement, as the young girl was hiding in a room of a house in the neighbourhood while playing hide and seek with her playmates, Raihan entered the same room and raped her.

The girl did not disclose the matter to her parents later as Raihan had threatened her of dire consequences if she acted otherwise.

However, she opened up about the incident after her parents interrogated her following medical complications that she started to experience six months later, her father said.

He then approached Raihan's father Habibur, a teacher at a government primary school, for securing a resolution of the matter and Habibur agreed to arrange marriage between the girl and Raihan.

Soon after the girl gave birth to the baby at Dewanganj Upazila Health Complex, condition of both

deteriorated and they were transferred to Jamalpur General Hospital.

But when the girl's father went to Habibur again after his daughter's child died on Thursday, Habibur refused to arrange the marriage, said Faisal, sub-inspector of the police station and also investigation officer (IO) of the case, quoting the case statement.

Following the filing of the case on Friday, police took the dead baby to Jamalpur General Hospital and collected her DNA sample, said MM Mainul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The complainant's father, while speaking with this correspondent, said his daughter was suffering from malnutrition due to the childbirth at a young age, but he could not afford to pay for necessary medications and nutritional food for her.

Man gets life term for killing father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Kishoreganj court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his father in 2008.

The convict was identified as Mamun, son of late Israil of Kormuli village in Kishoreganj Sadar upazila. He was tired in absentia.

First Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Abdur Rahim also fined the lifer Tk one lakh, said Chowdhury Mizanuzzaman, court inspector.

According to the prosecution, Mamun hacked his father Israil indiscriminately over a family feud on July 22 in 2008.

Critically injured Israil was rushed to Kishoreganj General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Later, the victim's wife Rekha Akter lodged a case with Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station accusing Mamun.

After investigation, police pressed a charge sheet against Mamun on November 25 the same year.

After examining witnesses and evidences, the judge found Mamun guilty and pronounced the verdict.



The listed farmers of Lakutia Seeds Production Farm in Barishal's Babuganj upazila harvest paddy to collect Aman seeds.

PHOTO: STAR

BADC SEED FARM IN BARISHAL Aman seedbeds on 38 acres of land damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A seed farm run by Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) in Barishal has failed to achieve Aman seed production target as cultivation in the farm at Lakutia in Babuganj upazila has been badly hampered due to the cyclonic storm Bulbul.

The cyclonic storm hit the country's southern districts on the night of November 9.

The storm damaged Aman seedbeds on 38 acres of land of the farm set up by BADC, said Kishor Kumar Biswas, assistant director (AD) of Lakutia Seeds Production Farm in Barishal.

He further said in Aman planting season, their listed farmers collected the seeds from them and sown in their seedbeds.

Later, the growers planted the Aman

seedlings in their crop fields and after some days, seedlings grew into flowering plants, which was damaged by the storm this year, said Kishor Kumar.

This time they targeted to produce 53 tonnes of Aman seeds but they can now get only 48 tonnes of seeds from the farm as Bulbul hit the seedbeds, said AD Kishor Kumar.

Prafulla Mahajan, a farmer of Gaila village in Agailjhara upazila, said the cyclonic storm damaged seedbeds on his one acre of land.

Md Aftabuddin, additional director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Barishal, said Aman cultivation has been hampered in the district hit by Bulbul.

Around 9,900 hectares of Aman paddy field in the district have been damaged by the storm, said Aftabuddin.



A mobile court yesterday sealed off this brick kiln, Akhi Bricks, built illegally on farmland at Shialkhoil village in Tangail's Bhuapur upazila. The court also fined its manager Tk 80,000. Ever since the kiln was constructed several years ago, locals had been voicing their concerns against its harmful effects on their health and the environment. They also formed human chains in front of Bhuapur and Dhaka press clubs.

PHOTO: COLLECTED